TL1505-8

REPUBLIC OF INDONESIA

RIGHT OF REPLY BY
MR HADI WAYARABI
UNDER ITEM 12
GENEVA, ~~10~~ 11 MARCH 1988

Mr. Chairman,

Thank you for giving me the floor. My delegation would like to make a brief statement in the exercise of its right of reply to the statements made by certain speakers during the past few days under agenda item 12.

My delegation has stated on various occasions to this august body that the people of East Timor have exercised their right to self determination by integration with Indonesia on 17 July, 1976 in conformity with United Nations resolutions 1514 (XV), 1541 (XV) and 2625 (XXV). Since then, East Timor has become an integral part as the 27th province of the Republic of Indonesia. Consequently, it is the primary duty of the Indonesian Government and all its apparatus to protect and maintain the fundamental rights of its citizens, as well as to preserve the social, religious and ethnic identity of all its people. Any practice which does not respect the characteristics of the Indonesian people, which comprises various ethnic groups, is tantamount to a violation of the Nation's constitution as well as the prevailing laws and regulations of the country.

Furthermore, as to the concern expressed by a certain delegation over the restrictions placed on the freedom of movement in East Timor, my delegation has repeatedly informed this august body that there are no restrictions placed on the independent observers and humanitarian organisations such as the ICRC, UNHCR, UNICEF and the CRS which have been operating there for a number of years, as well as various

../..

governmental delegations, many of whom have published their own favourable findings.

With reference to the expressed support by several members of the Commission for the on-going dialogue between Indonesia and Portugal, under the auspices of the Secretary General of the United Nations, my delegation once again would like to assure this august body of my Government's continuing co-operation with the Secretary General in discharging this task. However, my delegation would like to reiterate that a dialogue can only be successful, if the parties show sincerity and consistency in their approach thereby avoiding an adoption of a two-faced approach which could jeopardize the outcome of the dialogue.

Mr. Chairman,

With regards the concern expressed by some delegation on the so-called executions after prolonged incarceration, my delegation would simply like to explain that the long wait was due to the lengthy testimonies and the process of clemency. The sentences were only handed down after all legal recourse had been exhausted. This is the legal process carried out by any lawful society and is therefore a legal issue and not a human rights issue.

In response to the statement made by a certain NGO regarding the province of Irian Jaya, I would like to request the attention of the Commission to the statement delivered by my delegation on item 9 of the agenda as well as our statements in the previous sessions of the Commission.

I thank you, Mr. Chairman.